

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 1-35 (Cancelled)

36. (New) A sanitary article comprising a superabsorbent polymer composition comprising a superabsorbent polymer consisting essentially of:

a) from about 55 to about 99.9 wt.% of polymerizable unsaturated acid group containing monomers;

b) from about 0.001 to about 5.0% by weight of internal crosslinking agent based on the weight of a);

wherein elements a) and b) are polymerized and prepared into superabsorbent polymer particles; wherein the superabsorbent polymer particles further comprise the following surface additives

c) from about 0.001 to about 5.0% by weight of surface crosslinking agent applied to the particle surface based on dry polymer powder weight ;

d) from about 0.01% to about 5 wt.% by weight of a penetration modifier immediately before, during or immediately after the surface crosslinking step based on dry polymer powder weight;

e) from 0 to about 5% by weight of a multivalent metal salt on the particle surface based on dry polymer powder weight;

f) from 0 to about 2% by weight of a surfactant on the particle surface based on dry polymer powder weight;

g) from about 0.01 to about 5% by weight of an insoluble, inorganic powder based on dry polymer powder weight ; and

h) from about 0.01 to about 0.5% by weight of a thermoplastic polymer based on dry polymer powder weight, said thermoplastic polymer having a thermoplastic melt temperature wherein the thermoplastic polymer is applied on and fully encapsulates the particle surface coincident with or followed by a temperature at least about the thermoplastic melt temperature or greater,

wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition has a degree of neutralization of more than about 25%; and having the characteristics of centrifuge retention capacity of about 25g/g or more; a gel bed permeability I of about  $500 \times 10^{-9} \text{cm}^2$  or more; or a gel bed permeability II of about  $300 \times 10^{-9} \text{cm}^2$  or more.

37. (New) The sanitary article according to claim 36 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition has a gel bed permeability I of at least about  $[54000e^{-0.18x} + 100] \times 10^{-9} \text{cm}^2$  wherein x is the numeric value of the centrifuge retention capacity.

38. (New) The sanitary article according to claim 36 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition has a gel bed permeability I of at least about  $[54000e^{-0.175x} + 100] \times 10^{-9} \text{cm}^2$  wherein x is the numeric value of the centrifuge retention capacity.

39. (New) The sanitary article according to claim 36 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition has a gel bed permeability I of at least about  $[54000e^{-0.17x} + 100] \times 10^{-9} \text{cm}^2$  wherein x is the numeric value of the centrifuge retention capacity.

40. (New) The sanitary article according to claim 36 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition has a gel bed permeability I of at least about  $[54000e^{-0.165x} + 100] \times 10^{-9} \text{cm}^2$  wherein x is the numeric value of the centrifuge retention capacity.

41. (New) The sanitary article of claim 36 wherein the thermoplastic polymer is selected from polyethylene, polyesters, polyurethanes, linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE), ethylene acrylic acid copolymer (EAA), styrene copolymers, ethylene alkyl methacrylate copolymer (EMA), polypropylene (PP), ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer (EVA) or blends thereof, or copolymers thereof.

42. (New) The sanitary article of claim 36 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition has a Dust Value of about 4 or less.

43. (New) The sanitary article of claim 36 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition has a gel bed permeability I of about  $800 \times 10^{-9} \text{cm}^2$  or more; or a gel bed permeability II of about  $500 \times 10^{-9} \text{cm}^2$  or more.

44. (New) The sanitary article of claim 36 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition has a shear modulus of less than about 9500 dynes/cm<sup>2</sup>.

45. (New) The sanitary article of claim 36 wherein the sanitary article is a diaper.

46. (New) A sanitary article comprising a superabsorbent polymer consisting essentially of:

a) from about 55 to about 99.9 wt.% of polymerizable unsaturated acid group containing monomers;

b) from about 0.001 to about 5.0 wt.% based on the weight of a) of internal crosslinking agent;

wherein elements a) and b) are polymerized and prepared into superabsorbent polymer particles; wherein the superabsorbent polymer particles further comprise the following surface additives

c) from about 0.001 to about 5.0% by weight of surface crosslinking agent applied to the particle surface based on dry polymer powder weight;

d) from about 0.01% to about 5% by weight of a penetration modifier immediately before, during or immediately after the surface crosslinking step based on dry polymer powder weight;

e) from 0 to about 5% by weight of a multivalent metal salt on the particle surface based on dry polymer powder weight;

f) from 0 to about 2% by weight of a surfactant on the particle surface based on dry polymer powder weight;

g) from about 0.01 to about 5% by weight of an insoluble, inorganic powder based on dry polymer powder weight; and

h) from about 0.01 to about 0.5% by weight of a thermoplastic polymer based on dry polymer powder weight, the thermoplastic polymer having a thermoplastic melt temperature wherein the thermoplastic polymer is applied on and fully encapsulates the particle surface coincident with or followed by a temperature at least about the thermoplastic melt temperature or greater,

wherein the composition has a degree of neutralization of more than about 25%; having the characteristics of centrifuge retention capacity of about 25g/g or more; a gel bed permeability I of about  $200 \times 10^{-9} \text{cm}^2$  or more; or a gel bed permeability II of about  $150 \times 10^{-9} \text{cm}^2$  or more.

47. (New) The sanitary article according to claim 46 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition has a gel bed permeability I of at least about  $[54000e^{-0.18x} + 100] \times 10^{-9} \text{cm}^2$  wherein x is the numeric value of the centrifuge retention capacity.

48. (New) The sanitary article according to claim 46 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition has a gel bed permeability I of at least about  $[54000e^{-0.175x} + 100] \times 10^{-9} \text{cm}^2$  wherein x is the numeric value of the centrifuge retention capacity.

49. (New) The sanitary article according to claim 46 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition has a gel bed permeability I of at least about  $[54000e^{-0.17x} + 100] \times 10^{-9} \text{cm}^2$  wherein x is the numeric value of the centrifuge retention capacity.

50. (New) The sanitary article according to claim 46 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition has a gel bed permeability I of at least about  $[54000e^{-0.165x} + 100] \times 10^{-9} \text{cm}^2$  wherein x is the numeric value of the centrifuge retention capacity.

51. (New) The sanitary article of claim 46 wherein the thermoplastic polymer is selected from polyethylene, polyesters, polyurethanes, linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE), ethylene acrylic acid copolymer (EAA), styrene copolymers, ethylene alkyl methacrylate copolymer (EMA), polypropylene (PP), ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer (EVA) or blends thereof, or copolymers thereof.

52. (New) The sanitary article of claim 46 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition has a Dust Value of about 4 or less.

53. (New) The sanitary article of claim 46 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition has a shear modulus of less than about  $9500 \text{ dynes/cm}^2$ .

54. (New) The sanitary article of claim 46 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition has a shear modulus from about  $4000 \text{ dynes/cm}^2$  to about  $8500 \text{ dynes/cm}^2$ .

55. (New) The sanitary article according to claim 36 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition comprises from about 0.1 to about 5 % by weight of a multivalent metal salt based on the dry polymer powder weight.

56. (New) The sanitary article of claim 36 wherein the insoluble, inorganic powder is silica.

57. (New) The sanitary article of claim 46 wherein the insoluble, inorganic powder is silica.

58. (New) The sanitary article of claim 46 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition comprises from about 0.01 to about 5% by weight of a thermoplastic polymer based on dry polymer weight, the thermoplastic polymer having a thermoplastic melt temperature wherein the thermoplastic polymer is applied on the superabsorbent polymer particle surface coincident with or followed by a temperature of the coated superabsorbent polymer particle of at least about the thermoplastic melt temperature or greater.

59. (New) The sanitary article of claim 36 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition has from about 0.01 to about 0.1% by weight of a thermoplastic polymer based on dry polymer powder weight.

60. (New) The sanitary article of claim 46 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition has from about 0.01 to about 0.1% by weight of a thermoplastic polymer based on dry polymer powder weight.

61. (New) A superabsorbent polymer composition comprising a superabsorbent polymer consisting essentially of:

a) from about 55 to about 99.9 wt.% of polymerizable unsaturated acid group containing monomers;

b) from about 0.001 to about 5.0% by weight of internal crosslinking agent based on the weight of a);

wherein elements a) and b) are polymerized and prepared into superabsorbent polymer particles; wherein the superabsorbent polymer particles further comprise the following surface additives

c) from about 0.001 to about 5.0% by weight of surface crosslinking agent applied to the particle surface based on dry polymer powder weight ;

d) from about 0.01% to about 5 wt.% by weight of a penetration modifier immediately before, during or immediately after the surface crosslinking step based on dry polymer powder weight;

e) from 0 to about 5% by weight of a multivalent metal salt on the particle surface based on dry polymer powder weight;

f) from 0 to about 2% by weight of a surfactant on the particle surface based on dry polymer powder weight;

g) from about 0.01 to about 5% by weight of an insoluble phosphate, inorganic powder based on dry polymer powder weight; and

h) from about 0.01 to about 0.5% by weight of a thermoplastic polymer based on dry polymer powder weight, said thermoplastic polymer having a thermoplastic melt temperature wherein the thermoplastic polymer is applied on



and fully encapsulates the particle surface coincident with or followed by a temperature at least about the thermoplastic melt temperature or greater, wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition has a degree of neutralization of more than about 25%; and having the characteristics of centrifuge retention capacity of about 25g/g or more; a gel bed permeability I of about  $500 \times 10^{-9} \text{cm}^2$  or more; or a gel bed permeability II of about  $300 \times 10^{-9} \text{cm}^2$  or more.

62. (New) The superabsorbent polymer composition of claim 61 wherein the insoluble, inorganic powder is aluminum phosphate.

63. (New) The superabsorbent polymer composition of claim 61 wherein the thermoplastic polymer is meleated polypropylene.

64. (New) The superabsorbent polymer composition of claim 61 wherein the thermoplastic polymer is polyvinyl amine.

**Basis For The Amendment:**

Claims 1-35 have been canceled. Claims 36-64 are newly added and are active in the present application. Support for the new claims is found in the original claims and in the Specification. No new matter is added.